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U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/488,976

In The Claims:

Please cancel claims 25 - 30 without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter thereof and amend the claims as follows.

1(Currently amended). A computer-implemented method for adding user-provided content to a user-defined web-based content object being one of a book, a collection of images, an album, a video and a multimedia object and stored as a plurality of content entities in a data repository, comprising the steps of:

having a user defining the web-based content object by a list of content entity identifiers, wherein each content entity identifier identifies a corresponding content entity in the data repository selected by a user for inclusion in the web-based content object and including pre-existing material;

receiving user provided content from the user via a web user interface for inclusion in the defined web-based content object and transmitting the user provided content to the data repository via an Internet, wherein the user-provided content is custom content for the defined web-based content object that is supplied by the user and unavailable from the pre-existing material stored within the data repository;

assigning the user-provided content an identifier, and storing the user-provided content with the assigned identifier of the user-provided content in the data repository; and

adding the identifier of the user-provided content to the list of content entity identifiers, whereby the user-provided content is added to the web-based content object;

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~~wherein the user-provided content is content supplied or created by the user.~~

2(Currently amended). The computer-implemented method of claim 1, further comprising the step of receiving a user-provided location for inserting the identifier of the user-provided content into the web-based content object, and inserting the identifier into the list at that location.

3(Previously presented). The computer-implemented method of claim 2, further comprising the steps of providing a user interface communicating with the data repository, and providing mechanisms for receiving the user-provided content and specification of a desired location through the user interface.

4(Currently amended). A computer-implemented method for adding user-provided content to a user-defined hierarchically structured web-based content object being one of a book, a collection of images, an album, a video and a multimedia object and stored as a plurality of content entities in a data repository, comprising the steps of:

having a user defining the web-based content object by a hierarchical outline of containers and content entity identifiers, wherein each content entity identifier identifies a corresponding content entity in the data repository selected by a user for inclusion in the web-based content object and including pre-existing material, and wherein each container represents an outline hierarchical tier and includes at least one content entity identifier forming a subordinate outline hierarchical tier;

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receiving user provided content from the user via a web user interface for inclusion in the defined web-based content object and transmitting the user provided content to the data repository via an Internet, wherein the user provided content is custom content for the defined web-based content object that is supplied by the user and unavailable from the pre-existing material stored within the data repository;

assigning the user-provided content an identifier, and storing the user-provided content with the assigned identifier of the user-provided content in the data repository; and

adding the identifier of the user-provided content to the hierarchical outline of containers and content entity identifiers, thereby adding the user-provided content to the web-based content object;

wherein the user provided content is content supplied or created by the user.

5(Currently amended). The computer-implemented method of claim 4, further comprising the step of receiving a user-provided location for inserting the identifier of the user-provided content into the web-based content object, and inserting the identifier into the outline at that location.

6(Previously presented). The computer-implemented method of claim 4, wherein the user-provided content comprises a content entity.

7(Previously presented). The computer-implemented method of claim 4, wherein the user-provided content comprises a container.

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8(Previously presented). The computer-implemented method of claim 5, further comprising the steps of providing a user interface communicating with the data repository, and providing mechanisms for receiving the user-provided content and specification of a desired location through the user interface.

9(Currently amended). A program storage device readable by a machine, tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the machine to perform method steps for adding user-provided content to a user-defined web-based content object being one of a book, a collection of images, an album, a video and a multimedia object and stored as a plurality of content entities in a data repository, the method comprising the steps of:

having a user defining the web-based content object by a list of content entity identifiers, wherein each content entity identifier identifies a corresponding content entity in the data repository selected by a user for inclusion in the web-based content object and including pre-existing material;

receiving user-provided content from the user via a web user interface for inclusion in the defined web-based content object and transmitting the user-provided content to the data repository via an Internet, wherein the user-provided content is custom content for the defined web-based content object that is supplied by the user and unavailable from the pre-existing material stored within the data repository;

assigning the user-provided content an identifier, and storing the user-provided content with the assigned identifier of the user-provided content in the data repository; and

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adding the identifier of the user-provided content to the list of content entity identifiers, whereby the user-provided content is added to the web-based content object;

~~wherein the user-provided content is content supplied or created by the user.~~

10(Currently amended). The method program storage device of claim 9, wherein said method further comprises comprising the step of receiving a user-provided location for inserting the identifier of the user-provided content into the web-based content object, and inserting the identifier into the list at that location.

11(Currently amended). The method program storage device of claim 10, wherein said method further comprises comprising the steps of providing a user interface communicating with the data repository, and providing mechanisms for receiving the user-provided content and specification of a desired location through the user interface.

12(Currently amended). A program storage device readable by a machine, tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the machine to perform method steps for adding user-provided content to a user-defined hierarchically structured web-based content object being one of a book, a collection of images, an album, a video and a multimedia object and stored as a plurality of content entities in a data repository, the method comprising the steps of:

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having a user defining the web-based content object by a hierarchical outline of containers and content entity identifiers, wherein each content entity identifier identifies a corresponding content entity in the data repository selected by a user for inclusion in the web-based content object and including pre-existing material, and wherein each container represents an outline hierarchical tier and includes at least one content entity identifier forming a subordinate outline hierarchical tier;

receiving user provided content from the user via a web user interface for inclusion in the defined web-based content object and transmitting the user provided content to the data repository via an Internet, wherein the user provided content is custom content for the defined web-based content object that is supplied by the user and unavailable from the pre-existing material stored within the data repository;

assigning the user-provided content an identifier, and storing the user-provided content with the assigned identifier of the user provided content in the data repository; and

adding the identifier of the user provided content to the hierarchical outline of containers and content entity identifiers, thereby adding the user provided content to the web-based content object;

wherein the user provided content is content supplied or created by the user.

13(Currently amended). The method program storage device of claim 12, wherein said method further comprises comprising the step of receiving a user-provided location for inserting the identifier of the user-provided content into the web-based content object, and inserting the identifier into the outline at that location.

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14(Currently amended). The method program storage device of claim 12, wherein the user-provided content comprises a content entity.

15(Currently amended). The method program storage device of claim 12, wherein the user-provided content comprises a container.

16(Currently amended). The method program storage device of claim 13, wherein said method further comprises comprising the steps of providing a user interface communicating with the data repository, and providing mechanisms for receiving the user-provided content and specification of a desired location through the user interface.

17(Currently amended). A system for adding user-provided content to a user-defined web-based content object being one of a book, a collection of images, an album, a video and a multimedia object and stored as a plurality of content entities in a data repository, comprising:

means for defining the web-based content object by a list of content entity identifiers, wherein each content entity identifier identifies a corresponding content entity in the data repository selected by a user for inclusion in the web-based content object and including pre-existing material;

means for receiving user-provided content from the user via a web user interface for inclusion in the defined web-based content object and transmitting the user-provided content to the data repository via an Internet, wherein the user-provided content is custom content for the

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defined web-based content object that is supplied by the user and unavailable from the pre-existing material stored within the data repository;

means for assigning the user-provided content an identifier, and for storing the user-provided content with the assigned identifier of the user-provided content in the data repository; and

means for adding the identifier of the user-provided content to the list of content entity identifiers, whereby the user-provided content is added to the web-based content object;

~~wherein the user provided content is content supplied or created by the means for defining the object.~~

18(Currently amended). The system of claim 17, further comprising means for receiving a user-provided location for inserting the identifier of the user-provided content into the web-based content object, and means for inserting the identifier into the list at that location.

19(Original). The system of claim 18, further comprising a user interface communicating with the data repository, and a mechanism for receiving the user-provided content and specification of a desired location through the user interface.

20(Currently amended). A system for adding user-provided content to a user-defined hierarchically structured web-based content object being one of a book, a collection of images,

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an album, a video and a multimedia object and stored as a plurality of content entities in a data repository, comprising the steps of:

means for defining the web-based content object by a hierarchical outline of containers and content entity identifiers, wherein each content entity identifier identifies a corresponding content entity in the data repository selected by a user for inclusion in the web-based content object and including pre-existing material, and wherein each container represents an outline hierarchical tier and includes at least one content entity identifier forming a subordinate outline hierarchical tier;

means for receiving user-provided content from the user via a web user interface for inclusion in the defined web-based content object and transmitting the user-provided content to the data repository via an Internet, wherein the user-provided content is custom content for the defined web-based content object that is supplied by the user and unavailable from the pre-existing material stored within the data repository;

means for assigning the user-provided content an identifier, and for storing the user-provided content with the assigned identifier of the user-provided content in the data repository; and

means for adding the identifier of the user-provided content to the hierarchical outline of containers and content entity identifiers, thereby adding the user-provided content to the web-based content object;

wherein the user-provided content is content supplied or created by the means for defining the content object.

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21(Currently amended). The system of claim 20, further comprising means for receiving a user-provided location for inserting the identifier of the user-provided content into the web-based content object, and means for inserting the identifier into the outline at that location.

22(Original). The system of claim 20, wherein the user-provided content comprises a content entity.

23(Original). The system of claim 20, wherein the user-provided content comprises a container.

24(Currently amended). The system of claim 21, further comprising a user interface communicating with the data repository, and a mechanisms mechanism for receiving the user-provided content and specification of a desired location through the user interface.

25 - 30 (Canceled).

31(Currently amended). A computer-implemented method for adding user-provided content to a user-defined web-based custom content object being one of a book, a collection of images, an album, a video and a multimedia object and stored as a plurality of content entities in a digital library having a library server, and one or more object servers, the method comprising the steps of:

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defining the web-based custom content object by a list of content entity identifiers, wherein each content entity identifier identifies a corresponding content entity in the digital library selected by a user for inclusion in the web-based custom content object and including pre-existing material;

receiving user-provided content from the user via a web user interface for inclusion in the defined web-based custom content object and transmitting the user-provided content to the data repository via an Internet, wherein the user-provided content is custom content for the defined web-based custom content object that is supplied by the user and unavailable from the pre-existing material stored within the digital library;

assigning the user-provided content an identifier, and storing the user-provided content with the assigned identifier of the user-provided content in one or more object servers; and

adding the identifier of the user-provided content to the list of content entity identifiers, whereby the user-provided content is added to the web-based custom content object;

storing said web-based custom content object in said one or more object servers; and

storing information specifying the web-based custom content object and attribute information concerning the web-based custom content object in the library server.

32(Currently amended). The computer-implemented method of claim 1, ~~further comprising: wherein said data repository includes~~ a plurality of object servers, ~~wherein and~~ components of the ~~custom~~ web-based content object are stored in more than one of the plurality of object servers.